

**Governor's Scholars Program  
2015 Community Recommendation Form**

**PLEASE TYPE**

Recommender's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Recommender's Position & Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known this applicant? 13 years

In what capacity have you interacted with this applicant?

I've interacted with \_\_\_\_\_ in various manners across the time I have known her including community service events, local sporting events, and joint church activities.

Please check the number that represents your experience with this applicant as related to the qualities listed below. 5 represents the highest score and 1 represents the lowest score. Indicate an "in-between" by adding a "+" or "-" after it.

Willingness and ability to contribute to the community	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Cooperation, social and emotional maturity	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Character, integrity, and honesty	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Consideration and attitude toward others	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Flexibility, willingness to adapt to new situations and accept changes	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Motivation, initiative, and self-starting ability	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Willingness to pursue visionary ideas	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Self discipline, responsibility, and dedication to following through	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Creativity and originality of thought	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Inquisitiveness, interest in a variety of topics and issues	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5

As you respond to the following questions, please be sure to include specific details and examples. Brief responses that lack specific information do not provide the selection committee with sufficient information and will result in a lower score.

1. What do you consider to be the most relevant strength and weakness of this applicant in terms of his/her community involvement and leadership potential?

Without a doubt, the most relevant strength of \_\_\_\_\_ is her character. Being involved with the youth of this community for 20 plus years, it becomes very clear which youth are those who you can count on to be positive role models and those that may need to be led a little more with a watchful eye. \_\_\_\_\_ is just "that" girl. She carries herself with such dignity and grace as she moves throughout the community and her school. She does not engage in any form of inappropriate behavior or language regardless if she is around adults or with peers. She holds her morals of very high regard and wastes no time standing up for what she believes in all while being very respectful of others' beliefs. She is proud of her community and works hard to give back to the people of her community.

An example of her character is her involvement with \_\_\_\_\_ a local non-for-profit created for treatment and research for Cystic Fibrosis after the granddaughter of a local citizen was diagnosed. \_\_\_\_\_ participates in fund raising efforts throughout the year for this organization with no accolade expected or given to anything she may do. One thing this group does is go all over the state performing clogging routines. \_\_\_\_\_ gives up a lot of her own time to not only learn these routines but also travel to entertain people, all while benefiting an excellent cause. Her experience with dance through cheerleading gives her the opportunity to

help choreograph, teach, and lead a lot of these routines-again, taking a lot of time. Not once does she complain or lag in her efforts. is a very well rounded individual. She manages to keep a perfect 4.0 GPA while participating in sports, church, and volunteering opportunities. She is able to manage her time effortlessly in anything she does, all while giving 100% of herself to anything she is involved in. The foundation of any great leader is strong character and that certainly will not fail as she continues to lead those around her.

A weakness of is simply that there is just not enough of her to go around. is so dependable, strong, and independent she could be useful anywhere you may need help. Unfortunately, she gives so much of herself to the things she's involved in, those of us around her just want her more and there's just so much to give! I personally think we could use about 100 more I certainly think our community is better just by having her here.

2. What is most unique about this applicant? If you are aware of any hardships/conditions (social, emotional, or otherwise) that may affect this applicant's participation in the Governor's Scholars Program, please note them here.

I think one of the most unique qualities of \_\_\_\_\_ is her maturity. Ever since she was a very young girl, she always displayed a level of maturity well beyond her years. This holds true the older she gets. \_\_\_\_\_ is very accepting of all and respectful of the differences that we all have. This is not always very typical for a sixteen year old girl. \_\_\_\_\_ has this very unique quality of being able to hold true to her own morals, values, and beliefs while at the same time not passing judgement on others for their own. She is mature enough to see people as individuals not as a class of people grouped for what kind of clothing they wear or what kind of socioeconomic status they may belong to.

An example of \_\_\_\_\_ maturity is her perfect attendance in high school. I am the mother of a high school student and the wife of our county's \_\_\_\_\_. I know plenty about school attendance. It can be very hard for high school students to be motivated to get up and go to school, especially when you're 16 years old and taking college classes. \_\_\_\_\_ has goals and ambitions and realizes that her avenue to meet these goals is to not only go to school but also be successful while there and she is doing this in a very mature manner.

3. Based on your experience with the applicant, what would you expect the single greatest contribution of this individual to be at the Governor's Scholars Program?

\_\_\_\_\_ is always very eager to try new things, step out of her comfort zone, and adapt to change. That being said, I believe that her single greatest contribution would be her versatility. Naturally every student who applies for GSP wants to be selected for the opportunity. \_\_\_\_\_ wants the chance to be a Governor's Scholar so she can have the opportunity to do something different, experience a new way of learning, challenge herself and thought processes. This can be hard for teenagers who are very reluctant to change their ways of doing things because of fear of failure. \_\_\_\_\_ understands that there are times that failure will pave the way to her successes and therefore she willingly is accepting of new things to do and new ways to do old things.

An example of her versatility is her participation in a summer program last year through the University of Kentucky. This was UK's AHEC Summer Enrichment Program and it gave accepted students the opportunity to learn and have hands on participation in activities that promoted careers of the Allied Health Sciences. This program presented a lot of change for the students involved in it. These students not only had their minds challenged and thought processes stimulated, they also had to stay on a college campus, leaving the conveniences of life at home for four weeks only to see their families on the weekends. For many students, this is such a scary thought, they turn away from the opportunity and stick with what makes them comfortable. \_\_\_\_\_ knew that she would miss her family and the conveniences at home, but she didn't see something unknown, different, or scary. She saw opportunity. She saw experience. Finally, she saw growth. I believe her ability to be versatile will not only help her be comfortable within the environment of GSP, but will also be the catalyst for amazing growth.

4. (OPTIONAL) If information that you feel is important is not included elsewhere in your recommendation, please feel free to include it here.

I had originally planned on using this space to discuss \_\_\_\_\_ volunteer activities in greater depth because her heart is just that big. After thinking about it further, I decided to ask my son about \_\_\_\_\_ and how he thought might be a good fit for GSP. He is a 2014 Governor's Scholar and his GSP experience is as fresh to him as if he had just returned. Like others, he went to GSP not really having a great idea as to what the experience would involve. He returned home as the biggest cheerleader and supporter for that experience and all that it meant to him. So when I asked him about \_\_\_\_\_ and GSP, his answer was very simple yet very relevant. My question, "What is it about \_\_\_\_\_ that would make her great for GSP?" His answer followed by a lengthy discussion was simply, "She's the happiest person in our school and you don't understand but GSP is...well, it's just happy". I gave a lot of consideration to this and thought, our youth spend so much time in life busy with school, responsibility at home, extra-curricular activities, and volunteering that it could be very hard to not only always be happy but allow the world to see you as that. Many times, kids are happy but at the same time the stresses of being a teenager, allows others to see the other side of them--a side we all have and sometimes show a little too much. But in this case, you

have a peer, friend and classmate acknowledging that here is a girl who always shows her ray of sunshine on those she's around at school. He went on to talk about the experience and how she would easily be able to handle the schedules, responsibilities, and new way of life because she is a good, mature, student who doesn't care to try new things but went on to say how impossible it is to be unhappy while you are there. I think a lot of times we place decreased value on our students' ability to be happy kids. We replace this a lot with increased value for sports, accolades, and accomplishments.

Let's face it, the caliber of students applying for GSP are typically your academically successful students who spend the first three years of high school in this amazing competition with each other. There's a competition over ACT scores, competition over who is taking the most college classes, or who holds the figurative trophy for the highest GPA. These kids have competition embedded in every aspect of their academic life, and most times it is competition that is not facilitated by school or family, but rather each other. This is what my son was referring to when he said GSP was happy. There is absolutely no competition there. There is no award for best GSPer at the end of the five weeks, and there is no grade to be given. GSP gives these kids a chance to have a non-competitive learning environment and suprisingly enough to them, they actually learn!! The absence of competition within academics was much needed for my son and I'm certain will be for most accepted this year. This is why he believes

is the perfect GSP student---she's a happy girl who on the academic side, worries about herself and actually tries to help others find success with their academics, regardless of how it may interfere with her own standings. Ironically in one of the college classes that my son has had with , she ended up teaching most of the students at some point throughout the semester. He said she did it with knowledge and not in a gloating fashion whatsoever.

is a mature, versatile young girl who is an excellent student, a well-rounded individual, a great athlete, with a heart for giving back to her community and peers in a variety of ways. I am honored to be able to recommend this young woman for acceptance in to an elite group of young Kentuckians because of all of these outstanding qualities she exemplifies, but also mainly because she is a loving and "happy" soul and GSP is....well, it's just HAPPY!!